

DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**



**K. L. COOL, DIRECTOR**

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The **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations, a role it has relished since creation of the original Conservation Department in 1921.

In 1995, Governor John Engler issued Executive Order No. 1995-18, which separated environmental and natural resources functions into two departments, elevating environmental protection to cabinet status for the first time in history, and allowing the DNR to return to its original conservation mission. The Department of Environmental Quality now focuses on environmental regulatory, permitting and related enforcement functions, and the DNR focuses on promoting diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, wildlife and fisheries management, forest management, state lands and minerals, state parks and recreation areas, and conservation and law enforcement.



**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

	<i>Term expires</i>
JERRY C. BARTNIK, Monroe . . . . .	Dec. 31, 2000
KEITH J. CHARTERS, Traverse City (Chair) . . . . .	Dec. 31, 2001
NANCY A. DOUGLAS, Menominee . . . . .	Dec. 31, 2002
L. THORTON EDWARDS, JR., Pontiac . . . . .	Dec. 31, 2003
ROBERT J. GARNER, Cadillac . . . . .	Dec. 31, 2002
WILLIAM U. PARFET, Mattawan . . . . .	Dec. 31, 2003

The **Michigan Natural Resources Commission** is a 7-member public body, whose members are appointed by the governor and subject to the advice and consent of the senate. The commission conducts monthly public meetings in locations throughout Michigan. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in these public forums.

The commission's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (1994 PA 451, as amended). This act codified nearly 200 applicable statutes, many dating back to the 1800s.

The commission is the head of the Department of Natural Resources which is charged in the act to protect and conserve the state's natural resources, provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation, prevent destruction of forest resources by fire or otherwise, promote reforestation of state-owned lands, protect against pollution of lakes and streams, and foster protection and

propagation of game and fish. The department has jurisdiction over most of the 4.5 million acres of state-owned land.

The commission establishes general policies for the Department of Natural Resources. Voter adoption of Proposal G in November 1996 vests exclusive authority in the Natural Resources Commission to regulate the taking of game.

The commission hires the department director. The director functions as the department's chief executive officer, monitors program activities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of department operations, and ensures that the department's mission, policies, and statutory mandates are met. The director's primary authority flows from the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (1994 PA 451, as amended), and is authorized by Executive Order No. 1991-31 to delegate decision-making authorities to appropriate levels within the department.



The **Fisheries Division** protects and enhances public trust in populations and habitat of fishes and other forms of aquatic life, and promotes optimum use of these resources.

Michigan offers a wealth of fishing opportunities with 4 of the 5 Great Lakes abutting our state; more than 11,000 inland lakes and 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, including 1,000 miles of the finest blue ribbon trout mainstreams in the country. Fisheries Division works to preserve and enhance Michigan's fish populations, as well as other forms of aquatic life.

Fish are monitored and studied by biologists who strive to keep Michigan fishing among the nation's best. More than 20 fish species are reared and hatched at 6 state hatcheries, and then planted into designated waters to maintain or improve fish populations. Nearly 2 million resident and nonresident anglers fish Michigan waters (fourth in the nation) and contribute \$4.3 billion annually to our economy.

The **Forest Management Division** protects, manages and guides the use of a healthy forest resource base for the social, recreational, environmental, and economic benefit of the people of Michigan.

Spanning 3.9 million acres, Michigan has the largest dedicated state forest system in the nation — 3 forests in the Upper Peninsula and 3 forests in the Lower Peninsula. Forests are popular spots for wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, backpacking and horseback riding. A DNR-established network of 5,900 miles of groomed snowmobile trails and 150 rustic campgrounds provide valuable recreational opportunities.

The Forest Management Division manages the use of forests for timber production, new tree growth (growing trees at 2½ times the rate of harvest), wildlife habitat and recreation. Foresters regularly examine trees, plants and soil characteristics to determine the best management practices to keep the forests healthy. Fire officers protect both public and private lands from wildfires.

Forest timber products industries and recreational users contribute \$12 billion and 200,000 associated jobs annually to our economy.

The **Law Enforcement Division** protects Michigan natural resources, environment and the health and safety of the public through effective law enforcement and education.

Michigan Conservation Officers (COs) primarily enforce laws related to hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as laws governing the operation of boats, snowmobiles and recreational vehicles. DNR peace officers also work with other state, federal and local law enforcement agencies to enforce a wide range of statutes and assist in undercover investigations, fire prevention and emergency search, rescue and recovery operations. Conservation officers help locate lost hunters, provide emergency medical assistance and play an integral role in the department's educational public outreach efforts with conservation organizations and clubs, community groups and schools. COs frequently help establish and serve as instructors of recreational safety programs for hunters, boaters and operators of recreational vehicles. Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline 1-800-292-7800.

The **Land and Mineral Services Division** promotes and assists in the wise stewardship in Michigan's land, and rights in land, for the benefit of the public. The Land and Mineral Services Division acquires and disposes of rights in land, promotes the responsible leasing of state-owned mineral resources, preserves farmland, maintains DNR land ownership records, and makes payment-in-lieu of taxes to local units government on state-owned land.

The overall administration of approximately 4.4 million acres of publicly owned lands, 25 million acres of Great Lakes bottomlands and 130,000 platted lots are under the jurisdiction of the Land and Mineral Services Division. The DNR is responsible for managing lands reverted to the state for nonpayment of taxes, issuing easements on state-owned lands and overseeing the sale of gas and oil extracted from state-owned lands.

The Land and Mineral Services Division administers 5.9 million acres of mineral estate ownership and leasing rights to explore for oil, gas and other minerals on state-owned lands (contributing \$20 million to \$30 million each year in royalties to the Natural Resources Trust Fund for recreational land acquisition and development, and for deposit into the Park Endowment Fund); sells tax-reverted lands at public auctions; maintains statewide aerial photographs in color infra-red and black and white formats, and provides detailed computerized map information for land utilization, management and resource protection.

The **Parks and Recreation Division** designs, develops and manages Michigan's state parks, recreation areas, and boating facilities.

Michigan's 96 state parks and recreation areas are managed by the Parks and Recreation Division. Visitor interpretive and historical sites offer insight into our natural resources heritage. Nearly 5 million people use state park campground facilities, including 13,000 campsites, picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, beach houses, boat launches and hiking and biking trails. The DNR maintains 14 Great Lakes Harbors of Refuge and 750 public access boating sites.

Michigan State Parks hosted more than 26 million visitors in 1998, contributing a quarter of a billion dollars to the state's economy, and \$200 million in direct visitor spending to nearby retail businesses.

In 1998 the DNR unveiled a 2.2-acre "pocket park" at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit, including a three-quarter acre catch-and-release fishing pond, to provide urban youth with hands-on experience with our natural resources. A similar pocket park will be constructed in 1999 for the Upper Peninsula State Fair in Escanaba. To make reservations at a Michigan State Park, call 1-800-44-PARKS.

The **Wildlife Division** enhances, restores, and conserves the state's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors, and future generations.

Wild animals — from black bear and white-tail deer to bald eagles and bullfrogs — bring a rich diversity of life to our lands. Wildlife Division manages and protects 400 species of game and nongame birds, mammals and their habitats, along with 70 state game and recreation areas. Biologists make recommendations on hunting regulations, habitat management, public hunting access, and protect more than 64 threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

Michigan's nearly one million hunters (#1 in the nation) contribute \$2 billion annually to our economy, excluding license fees. Some 2.6 million nonconsumptive users contribute \$1.2 billion annually to Michigan's economy. The Nongame Wildlife Fund, supported through donations from checkoffs on Michigan income tax forms, supports natural heritage research, education and habitat restoration projects to identify, protect, manage and restore native plant and animal species.

The **Administrative Services Division** provides a complete range of financial and administrative support services to the DNR.

The importance of utilizing customer-friendly service technologies, sound accounting principles and best business practices, proper contract administration and educational outreach efforts in the management of Michigan's natural resources cannot be overstated. DNR divisions and Offices of Information Systems and Technology; Finance and Operations Services; Internal Audit; Information and Education; Equal Opportunity and Legal Services, and Human Resources, play vital roles in supporting the Department's Conservation Mission.



## MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION

### *Resident Commissioner*

*Term expires*

DENNIS O. CAWTHORNE, Mackinac Island (Chair) . . . . . April 12, 2001

### *Resident of Mackinaw City*

AUDREY E. JAGGI, Mackinaw City . . . . . April 12, 2000

### *Public Members*

FRANK J. KELLEY, Okemos . . . . . April 12, 2003

RICHARD A. MANOOGIAN, Grosse Pointe . . . . . April 12, 2005

JOAN L. PORTEOUS, Reed City . . . . . April 12, 2005

MARK E. SCHLUSSEL, Southfield . . . . . April 12, 2001

STEPHEN P. VOGEL, Detroit . . . . . April 12, 2003

The **Mackinac Island State Park Commission** is established under Act 451 of 1994 for the control and management of Mackinac Island State Park, Colonial Michilimackinac State Park, and Historic Mill Creek State Park. The 7 commission members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 6-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.



## MICHIGAN FOREST FINANCE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *Executive Director*

GERALD J. THIEDE, State Forester

### *General Public*

*Term expires*

RONALD D. DEMLOW, Blanchard . . . . . July 24, 2001

ROBERT E. LEE, Iron Mountain . . . . . July 24, 2000

RUSSELL WEISINGER, Baraga . . . . . Feb. 24, 2002

### *ex officio*

K. L. COOL, Director, Department of Natural Resources

MARK A. MURRAY, State Treasurer, Department of Treasury

The **Michigan Forest Finance Authority**, created by Part 505, 1994 PA 451 (formerly Act 280 of 1990 and Act 351 of 1993), is a body corporate within the Department of Natural Resources whose purpose is to oversee the Michigan Forest Development Fund. The authority finances investments in improved timber management on the most productive portions of the state forests through the issuance of direct revenue bonds. Investments are made in timber stand improvement, forest protection, regeneration, and other areas of timber management in which investments will earn 4% or more over and above inflation. Bonds are repaid from the increased future timber sale receipts generated as a result of the investments.

Members of the Board of the Michigan Forest Finance Authority include 3 residents of the state who are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for 3-year terms. The other 2 members of the board are the director of the Department of Natural Resources and the state treasurer or their designees.



# MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

	<i>Term expires</i>
GORDON E. GUYER, East Lansing .....	Oct. 1, 2002
PAUL A. SABATINE, Cedarville .....	Oct. 1, 1999
JAMES B. THOMPSON, Reed City .....	Oct. 1, 2000
FRANKLIN C. WHEATLAKE, Big Rapids .....	Oct. 1, 2001
KEITH J. CHARTERS, representing the Natural Resources Commission	

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** was created by Act 101 of 1985 for the purpose of determining which lands and rights-in-lands should be acquired and which public facilities should be developed for resource protection or outdoor recreation purposes. The board of trustees of the fund must submit to the legislature, each January, a list of those lands, rights-in-lands and facilities to be developed, in order of priority. The list must then be approved by the legislature before purchases are made.

Four of the 5 board members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 4-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member can continue to serve until a successor is appointed. One member shall be the director of the Department of Natural Resources or a member of the Natural Resources Commission.



## MICHIGAN SNOWMOBILE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<i>Business Community</i>	<i>Term expires</i>
DANA WILTSE, Standish. ....	Dec. 1, 1998

<i>Grant Sponsor</i>	
ELZA INMAN, Brethren. ....	Dec. 1, 1997

<i>Michigan Snowmobile Association Upper Peninsula, Region I</i>	
JIM DUKE, Munising .....	Dec. 1, 1997

<i>Northern Lower Peninsula, Region II</i>	
KAY LAMSON, Gaylord .....	Dec. 1, 1998

<i>Southern Lower Peninsula, Region III</i>	
BILL MANSON, Grand Rapids. ....	Dec. 1, 1998

<i>General Public</i>	
LEE MURRAY, Hopkins .....	Dec. 1, 1997
ORVILLE OLSON, Ludington. ....	Dec. 1, 1997

<i>ex officio</i>
DAN MOORE, Lansing; Forest Management Division, Department of Natural Resources
BEN KINSEY, Lansing; Southern Lower Peninsula, Forest Management Division, Department of Natural Resources
CURTIS BACON, Marquette; Law Enforcement Division, Department of Natural Resources
JIM SOMERVILLE, Cadillac; USDA, Forest Service

The **Michigan Snowmobile Advisory Committee** was created by Executive Order No. 1994-11. The 7 committee members are appointed by the director of the Department of Natural Resources. The nonvoting ex officio members are appointed by their respective division chiefs.

The committee advises the department regarding the development of criteria for safety education and training programs; allocation of funds from the recreational snowmobile trail improvement fund; development of annual updates to the comprehensive plan for implementing a statewide recreational and snowmobile trail system; recommendations made by snowmobile users regarding trails that should be designated for snowmobile use; and a comprehensive plan for the use of snowmobiles in this state.

Ex officio members are nonvoting staff advisors to the committee. They are appointed by the appropriate Division Chief or Department Head. The Forest Service representative was appointed by the Regional Forester for the Forest Service Region 9.

# MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

## *Upper Peninsula*

*Term expires*

FRANK P. OPOLKA, Iron Mountain . . . . . Sept. 18, 2001

## *Lower Peninsula North of Townline 16*

JOHN A. WINN, Charlevoix . . . . . Sept. 18, 2002

## *Marine Trades Industry*

FRANK P. MCBRIDE, Grosse Pointe Shores . . . . . Sept. 18, 2000

## *Owners/Operators*

DAVID GROSSMAN, West Bloomfield . . . . . Sept. 18, 2001

## *General Public*

EDWARD P. BEAUREGARD, Algonac, Vice Chair . . . . . Sept. 18, 2000

DAVID R. GIFFIN, Grand Rapids . . . . . Sept. 18, 2002

MARC HOWARD, Mt. Clemens, Chair . . . . . Sept. 18, 2000

## *Staff to the Commission*

RODNEY A. STOKES, Chief  
Department of Natural Resources  
Parks and Recreation Division  
P.O. Box 30257  
Lansing, MI 48909-7925

The **Michigan State Waterways Commission** was created by Act 320 of 1947 and transferred to the Department of Natural Resources on January 1, 1966. The commission is responsible for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of recreational harbors, channels, docking and launching facilities and administration of commercial docks in the Straits of Mackinac.

The commission members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 3-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

